

UNDERSTANDING FLOOD REGIME CHANGES IN EUROPE

talk by *Günter Blöschl*

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ABSTRACT

There has been a surprisingly large number of major floods in the last years around the world, which suggests that floods may have increased and will continue to increase in the next decades. However, the realism of such changes is still hotly discussed in the literature. This presentation examines **whether floods have changed in the past** and explores the **driving processes of such changes** in the atmosphere, the catchments and the river system based on examples from **Europe**. Methods are reviewed for assessing whether floods may increase in the future. Accounting for **feedbacks within the human-water system** is important when assessing flood changes over lead times of decades or centuries. It is argued that an **integrated flood risk management** approach is needed for dealing with future flood risk with a focus on reducing the vulnerability of the societal system.

SHORT BIO

Professor **Günter Blöschl** is an Austrian hydrologist, engineer and academic. Since 2012 he has been the Head of the **Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management at Vienna University of Technology**. He chairs the Scientific Advisory Council of the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG). From 2013-2015 he was president of the European Geosciences Union. For 2017-2021 he is the president of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences. His main research interests are in hydrology and water resource management and in particular understanding and predicting floods. An ERC Advanced Grant on 'Deciphering River Flood Change' was awarded to him.



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